

Message Text

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15

ACTION PM-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5084

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SUBJ: ROK PRESS COMMENTS ON CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

REF: STATE 161056

1. ROK PRESS JULY 25 AND 26 RAN FRONT-PAGE STORIES ON SECRETARY'S REMARKS TO FOREIGN OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE OF SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. STORIES STRESSED SECRETARY'S EMPHASIS OF ROK'S STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE BUT ALSO REPORTED SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON ROK INTERNAL PROBLEMS.
2. ARTICLES BY ROK PRESS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS REPORTED THAT SECRETARY SAID THE LOCATION OF SOUTH KOREA MAKES IT CRUCIAL TO THE SECURITY OF JAPAN AND NORTHEAST ASIA AND THIS SECURITY FACTOR HAS LED US TO CONTINUE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO KOREA EVEN WHEN MANY OF THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE ROKG ARE THOSE WE WOULD NOT RECOMMEND. IN REPLY TO SENATOR BROOKE'S QUESTION ON RELATION OF US NATIONAL INTEREST TO CONTINUING US AID TO KOREA, SECRETARY REPORTED AS SAYING THE SECURITY FACTOR CONTINUES TO EXIST. CHOSUN ILBO ACCOUNT SAID SECRETARY ADDED THAT JAPAN SHARES US VIEW ON LAST POINT.
3. PRESS REPORTS APPEAR CONSISTENT WITH PARA 2 REFTTEL. IN UNCLASSIFIED

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SLIGHT CHANGE FROM FIRST SENTENCE, BOTH VERNACULAR AND

ENGLISH PRESS REPORT SECRETARY SAID QUOTE WE DETERMINE OUR FOREIGN AID FUNDS ACCORDING TO OUR NATIONAL INTEREST, BUT IT IS TRUE THAT OUR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE CAN HAVE SOME EFFECT ON RECIPIENT COUNTRIES THAT MIGHT GO AGAINST OUR PRINCIPLES. UNQUOTE. REST OF COMMENTS IN REFTEL SIMILAR TO THOSE REPORTED IN ROK PRESS, EXCEPT PRESS OMITTED REFERENCE TO CONSTANT RE-EXAMINATION OF SITUATION.

4. PRESS HAS ALSO MENTIONED FAA ARTICLE 32 HEARINGS. HANKUK ILBO JULY 26 FRONT-PAGED REUTER REPORT THAT CONGRESSMEN FRASER AND NIX WILL HOLD A HEARING JULY 30 TO CONSIDER AID CUT TO THE ROK PROPOSED ON BASIS OF FOREIGN AID BILL BANNING AID TO ANY NATION HOLDING POLITICAL PRISONERS. ARTICLE SAID AID CUT SUPPORTED BY FRASER AND NIX WOULD BE \$200 MILLION. THE SAME ARTICLE SAID SENATOR CHURCH IS EXPECTED TO PROPOSE AMENDMENT TO AID BILL IN ORDER TO CUT AID TO ROK. OTHER ROK PAPERS CARRIED STORIES OF FRASER/NIX HEARINGS FILED BY WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS, BUT WITHOUT MENTION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.

5. IN ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT ON FRASER/NIX HEARINGS, ENGLISH LANGUAGE KOREA TIMES EXPRESSED "REGRET AND APPREHENSION" THAT CONGRESSIONAL SUBCOMMITTEES PLAN JOINT HEARING ON INTERNAL KOREAN ISSUES. EDITORIAL ARGUED THAT IDEAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD NOT BE LINKED TO FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND POINTED OUT THAT COMMUNISTS IN ROK, SITUATED NEXT TO COMMUNIST NORTH KOREA, PRESENT DIFFERENT MENACE FROM COMMUNISTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. KOREA TIMES DID ACKNOWLEDGE THAT "IT NOT IN POSITION TO DEFEND ALL ACTS COMMITTED BY THE GOVERNMENT" AND SAID IT HOPED ROKG WOULD RECEIVE "FRIENDLY ADVICE FROM FRIENDLY NATIONS" ON ITS DOMESTIC POLICY. EDITORIAL CONCLUDED BY ASKING US NOT TO ABANDON JOINT EFFORTS FRO DEVELOPMENT OF ROK AS ECONOMICALLY VIABLE, FREE AND DEMOCRATIC NATION, LEST NOT ONLY KOREA'S SECURITY BUT ALSO ASIA'S BE DESTROYED.

6. ROK PRESS JULY 24 REPORTED EXTENSIVELY ON DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL'S LETTER TO CHAIRMAN MORGAN ON ARTICLE 32. TEXT APPARENTLY MADE NO SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO ROK. HABIB

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